



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Construction Bulletin

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CEMP-C

Subject: Corps Safety Manual Revision


Applicability: GUIDANCE

1. The purpose of this construction bulletin is to inform you of a change to EM 385-1-1, the Corps Safety and Health Requirements Manual, with respect to cumulative trauma prevention. The change appears in the current version of the manual which is presently being published. This change represents a new requirement for contractors to consider when preparing activity hazard analyses on our construction projects. The requirement originated from studies of ergonomics related injuries in the workplace.
2. Section 06.K of the Safety Manual now states that "When work activities that stress the body's capabilities are identified, the employer shall incorporate them in the appropriate activity hazard analysis. The analysis shall identify cumulative trauma hazards, isolate causative factors, and recommend controls to be implemented." The manual also states that "Work activities that require workers to conduct lifting, handling, or carrying, rapid and frequent application of high grasping forces, repetitive hand/arm manipulations, tasks that include continuous, intermittent, impulsive, or impact hand-arm vibration or whole body vibration and other physical activities that stress the body's capabilities shall be evaluated to ensure the activities are designed to match the capabilities of the workers." You should now point out this requirement to contractors and begin to review the activity hazard analyses in light of the new requirements of the Safety Manual.
3. There will be a great number of discretionary tools at the disposal of the contractor to deal with hazardous work activities which fall into this category. Use of lifting devices, protective clothing, and vibration dampening methods are but a few examples of means to mitigate the effects of cumulative trauma. Field office personnel must review the activity hazard analyses during the Preparatory Inspection for each defined feature of work in order to insure that the possibility of these type of injuries has been considered and that action will be taken to minimize the hazards.

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4. This construction bulletin has been coordinated with the Office of Safety and Occupational Health (CESO) and the Operations, Construction and Readiness Division (CECW-OC). My point of contact for this bulletin is Mr. Jeff Krull, CEMP-CP, (202)761-1443.


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